

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of making electricity and recovering the compression energy in an engine comprising:

supplying compressed natural gas from a high pressure main line to a combustion chamber;

supplying compressed air from a high pressure air vessel to the combustion chamber from the high-pressure air vessel;

burning said fuel and air in said combustion chamber to form a compressed combustion gas;

opening an intake valve and supplying said compressed combustion gas to a positive displacement chamber containing a reciprocating piston such that said compressed combustion gas expands forcing said piston in a direction that increases the volume of the positive displacement cylinder to form an expanded gas;

closing said intake valve and opening an exhaust valve and allowing the expanded gas to exit said displacement chamber while said piston is moving in a direction which decreases the volume of the positive displacement chamber to provide a exhaust gas and thereby produce rotational energy; and

driving an electrical generator with said rotational energy to produce electricity.

2. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 1, further comprising the steps~~ of making electricity and recovering the compression energy in an engine comprising:

supplying compressed natural gas from the high pressure main line to a high pressure gas vessel and supplying compressed natural gas from the high pressure gas vessel to the a combustion chamber;

supplying compressed air from a high pressure air vessel to the combustion chamber from the high-pressure air vessel;

burning said fuel and air in said combustion chamber to form a compressed combustion gas;

opening an intake valve and supplying said compressed combustion gas to a positive displacement chamber containing a reciprocating piston such that said compressed combustion gas expands forcing said piston in a direction that increases the volume of the positive displacement cylinder to form an expanded gas;

closing said intake valve and opening an exhaust valve and allowing the expanded gas to exit said displacement chamber while said piston is moving in a direction which decreases the volume of the positive displacement chamber to provide a exhaust gas and thereby produce rotational energy; and

driving an electrical generator with said rotational energy to produce electricity.

3. Canceled.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of driving an air compressor with the rotational energy to produce compressed air in said high pressure air vessel.

5. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 1, further comprising the step of~~ making electricity and recovering the compression energy in an engine comprising:

supplying compressed natural gas from a high pressure main line to a combustion chamber;

driving an air compressor with the compression energy of natural gas from said main line to produce compressed air in said high pressure air vessel;

supplying compressed air from a high pressure air vessel to the combustion chamber from the high-pressure air vessel;

burning said fuel and air in said combustion chamber to form a compressed combustion gas;

opening an intake valve and supplying said compressed combustion gas to a positive displacement chamber containing a reciprocating piston such that said compressed combustion gas expands forcing said piston in a direction that increases the

volume of the positive displacement cylinder to form an expanded gas;

closing said intake valve and opening an exhaust valve and allowing the expanded gas to exit said displacement chamber while said piston is moving in a direction which decreases the volume of the positive displacement chamber to provide a exhaust gas ~~ad~~ and thereby produce rotational energy; and

driving an electrical generator with said rotational energy to produce electricity.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 2, further comprising filling the high-pressure fuel and air vessels to at least about 2000 pounds per square inch.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 2, further comprising filling the high-pressure fuel and air vessels to at least about 3000 pounds per square inch.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 2, further comprising filling the high-pressure fuel and air vessels to at least about 3500 pounds per square inch.

9. (New) A method according to claim 5, further comprising filling the high-pressure fuel and air vessels to at least about 2000 pounds per square inch.

10. (New) A method according to claim 5, further comprising filling the high-pressure fuel and air vessels to at least about 3000 pounds per square inch.

11. (New) A method according to claim 5, further comprising filling the high-pressure fuel and air vessels to at least about 3500 pounds per square inch.